Listing of the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1.   (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining an external module type definition table by a statically configured portion of an operating system kernel, comprising:

instructions in the static operating system kernel for:

identifying a module,

identifying a module type of the module;

searching an external module type definition table for the module type;

determining the module type is not defined in the external module type definition table;

dynamically creating a module type definition including at least one support module identifier; and

updating the external module type definition table to include the dynamically created module type definition.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically creating a module type definition includes receiving an operator generated dynamically loadable kernel module (~~"DLKM"~~) type identifier.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically creating a module type definition includes receiving a computer generated dynamically loadable kernel module (~~"DLKM"~~) type identifier.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a module type definition includes receiving at least one support module identifier associated with control logic operative to conduct pre-registration support.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a module type definition includes receiving at least one support module identifier associated with control logic operative to conduct a registration function.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a module type definition includes receiving at least one support module identifier associated with control logic operative to conduct post-registration support.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a module type definition includes receiving at least one support module identifier associated with control logic operative to conduct pre-loading support.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a module type definition includes receiving at least one support module identifier associated with control logic operative to conduct post-loading support.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a module type definition includes receiving at least one of a pointer and a reference, each at least one of a pointer and a reference being respectively associated with a support module.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating a module type definition includes receiving at least one symbol name, each symbol name being respectively associated with a support module.

11.   (Previously Presented) A system for maintaining an external module type definition table, comprising:

module type detection logic on a computer readable medium for detecting that a module is of an undefined module type;

module type identification logic on the computer readable medium for assigning a new module type associated with the module;

support module identification logic on the computer readable medium for identifying at least one support module associated with the module type;

support module loading logic on the computer readable medium for loading the at least one identified support module; and

module type definition logic on the computer readable medium for dynamically defining the module type as a function of the module type and for externally storing the module type data, including data identifying at least one support module associated with the module type, thereby updating the external module type definition table.

12.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the module type identification logic includes logic for receiving an operator generated dynamically loadable kernel module ("DLKM") type identifier.

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the module type identification logic includes logic for receiving a computer generated dynamically loadable kernel module ("DLKM") type identifier.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the support module identification logic includes logic for identifying a support module operative to conduct pre-registration support.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the support module identification logic includes logic for identifying a support module operative to conduct a registration function.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the support module identification logic includes logic for identifying a support module operative to conduct post-registration support.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the support module identification logic includes logic for identifying a support module operative to conduct pre-loading support.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the support module identification logic includes logic for identifying a support module operative to conduct post-loading support.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the support module identification logic is operative to receive at least one of a pointer and a reference, each at least one of a pointer and a reference being respectively associated with each of the at least one support module.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the support module identification logic is operative to receive at least one symbol name, each symbol name being respectively associated with each of the at least one support module.

21.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with processing instructions for maintaining an external module type definition table by a static operating system kernel, comprising:

instructions to identify a module type of a first module;

instructions to determine that the module type of the first module is undefined;

instructions to identify data defining the module type of the first module; and

instructions to identify a support module associated with the first module;

instructions to store the data defining the module type, including the associated support module, in the external module type definition table in a location external to the static operating system kernel.

22.   (Original) A computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the data defining the module type comprises a pre-loading support module.

23.   (Original) A computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the data defining the module type comprises a post-loading support module.

24.   (Original) A computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the data defining the module type comprises a pre-registration support module.

25.   (Original) A computer-readable storage medium of claim 21 wherein the data defining the module type comprises a post-registration support module.

26.   (Previously Presented) A static operating kernel on a computer readable medium comprising:

    logic on the computer readable medium to receive a request to load a module,

    logic on the computer readable medium to identify a module type of the module,

    logic on the computer readable medium to reference an external module type definition table,

    logic on the computer readable medium to identify at least one support module associated with the module type in the external module type definition table,

    logic on the computer readable medium to load the module based upon the module type and the at least one support module associated with the module type without reloading the static operating kernel,

    logic on a computer readable medium for identifying at least one module type not previously defined in the external module type definition table,

    logic on the computer readable medium to dynamically define the at least one module type, the definition including an identifier for at least on support module,

    logic on the computer readable medium to update the external module type definition table with the dynamically defined at least one module type.

27.   (Canceled).

28.   (Original) The static operating kernel of claim 26, where the logic to dynamically define the at least one external module type includes receiving an operator identified module type.

29.   (Original) The static operating kernel of claim 26, where the logic to dynamically define the at least one external module type includes receiving at least one identified support modules from an operator.

30.   (Previously Presented) A static operating system kernel on a computer readable medium comprising:

      logic on the computer readable medium to receive a request to load a module,

      logic on the computer readable medium to identify a module type associated with the module,

      logic on the computer readable medium to reference an external module type reference table,

      logic on the computer readable medium to determine the module type is undefined in the external module type reference table,

      means on the computer readable medium to identify at least one support module and associate that support module with a definition of the module type in the external module type reference table, and

      means on the computer readable medium to dynamically load the module without reloading the static operating system kernel.

31.   (Original) The static operating system kernel of claim 30, wherein the means to dynamically load the module comprises:

      means to dynamically define the module type that is undefined in the module type reference table,

      means to dynamically update the external module type definition table to include the defined module type,

      logic to load the module based upon the updated external module type definition table.

32.   (Previously Presented) The static operating system kernel of claim 31, wherein the means to dynamically define the module type that is undefined in the module type reference table comprises logic on the computer readable medium to receive at least one operator generated module type.

33.   (Previously Presented) The static operating system kernel of claim 31, wherein the means to dynamically define the module type that is undefined in the module type

reference table comprises logic on the computer readable medium to receive at least one software generated module type.

34.   (Previously Presented) The static operating system kernel of claim 31, wherein the means to dynamically define the module type that is undefined in the module type reference table comprises logic on the computer readable medium to identify at least one support module associated with the module type.